

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1, 4-16, 18-20, 22-37, and 39 are pending in the present Application. Claims 2, 3, 17, 21, and 38 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4-16, 18-20, 22-37, and 39 have been amended to address cosmetic matters of form. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 21 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter; Claims 22, 23, and 39 are directed to be rewritten; Claims 24 and 25 are directed to be rewritten; Claims 1, 4-16, 18-20 and 26-37 stand allowed.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

The outstanding Official Action has rejected Claims 21 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In order to allow this Application to proceed to allowance, Applicants have canceled Claims 21 and 38. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 21 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 has now been rendered moot.

The outstanding Official Action has directed Claims 22, 23, and 39 to be rewritten. Claims 22, 23, and 39 have been amended to add language suggested in the Official Action of March 9, 2006 at paragraph 7.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 22, 23, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

The Outstanding Official Action has directed Claims 24 and 25 to be rewritten. Likewise, Claims 24 and 25 have been amended in accordance with the suggestions of paragraph 8 of the Official Action of March 9, 2006.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that any additional formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this Application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1, 4-16, 18-20, 22-37, and 39, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Scott A. McKeown
Registration No. 42,866